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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **WISCONSIN ALUMNI RESEARCH FOUNDATION**
[US/US]; 614 Walnut Street, Madison, WI 54707-7365 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **DENES, Ferencz,**

S. [US/US]; 485 Togstad Glen, Madison, WI 53711 (US).
MANOLACHE, Sorin, O. [RO/US]; 602 Eagle Heights,
Madison, WI 53705 (US).

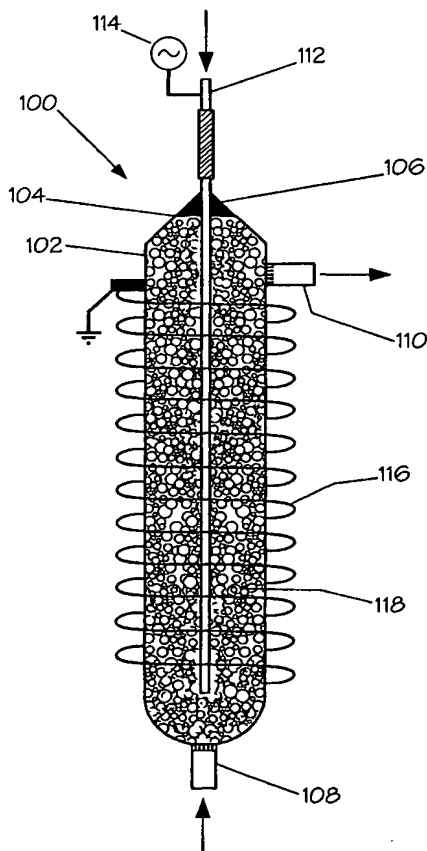
(74) Agents: **FIESCHKO, Craig, A.** et al.; DeWitt Ross &
Stevens S.C., 8000 Excelsior Drive, Madison, WI 53717-
1914 (US).

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(54) Title: PLASMA TREATMENT WITHIN DIELECTRIC FLUIDS



(57) Abstract: A dielectric liquid having entrained bubbles of gas or vapor is subjected to an electric field applied between spaced electrodes (112, 116) which generates microdischarges (and thus plasma) within the bubbles, allowing modification of the properties of the dielectric liquid. The invention is particularly useful for treating hydrocarbon liquids such as gasolines and other liquid hydrocarbon fuels, which have extremely low dielectric constants. Generating microdischarges within bubbles in such fuels can create compounds useful for higher combustion efficiency and/or lower emissions in internal combustion engines. The invention may be directly implemented in an engine's fuel line upstream from the combustion chamber (e.g., immediately prior to a fuel injector), thereby allowing the invention to be usefully implemented for fuel treatment prior to combustion.

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Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
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C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 99/47230 B (ZADIKARA et al.) 23 September 1999, see abstract, Fig. 2, -3, page 3, lines 27-32, page 10, lines 17-29, page 14, lines 27-30, page 15, lines 27-32 and page 19, lines 14-16.	1-3, 6, 13, 15
Y		7-10, 16-20
Y	US 6,284,105 B1 (ELIASSON et al.) 4 September 2001, see abstract, Figs. 1-3, col. 5, lines 27-64, col. 6, lines 6-49 and col. 10, lines 6-13.	1-30



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Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230

Authorized officer

Kishor Mayekar

Telephone No. (571) 272-1300

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